

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the amendments to the specification and granting the priority claim. Applicants also thank the Examiner for withdrawing the enablement and obviousness rejections and for his helpful comments throughout the Office Action.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for participating in the October 28, 2008 telephonic interview during which the October 7, 2008 Office Action was discussed.

Examiner Long and Teresa Chen participated in the interview. Examiner Long clarified that the obviousness type double patenting rejection on page 8, line 2, of the Office Action is over U.S. Patent 6,551,687, not U.S. Patent 6,551,587, and that the § 103 obviousness rejection over U.S. Patent 5,698,443 (page 4) was withdrawn (the Interview Summary mistakenly referred to that rejection as an "ODP" rejection). No prior art was discussed and no exhibits or demonstrations were shown.

Claim Amendments

Applicants have not amended the claims. The Listing of the Claims is provided for the Examiner's convenience.

Claims 38-96 are pending.

Rejections

A. Double Patenting

1. U.S. Application 11/601,071

Claims 38-96 stand rejected for provisional obviousness-type double patenting over claims 19-23, 26-34 and 36-40 of U.S. Application 11/601,071. Applicants have submitted a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Application 11/601,071, rendering this rejection moot.

2. U.S. Application 11/977,902

Claims 38-96 stand rejected for provisional obviousness-type double patenting over claim 19 of U.S. Application 11/977,902. Applicants have submitted a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Application 11/977,902, rendering this rejection moot.

3. U.S. Application 11/977,533

Claims 38-96 stand rejected for provisional obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 and 41-75 of U.S. Application 11/977,533. Applicants have submitted a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Application 11/977,533, rendering this rejection moot.

4. U.S. Patent 6,551,587

Claims 38-96 stand rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-87 of U.S. Patent 6,551,587. Applicants have submitted a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent 6,551,587, rendering this rejection moot.

5. U.S. Patent 6,638,762

Claims 38-96 stand rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-59 of U.S. Patent 6,638,762. Applicants have submitted a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent 6,638,762, rendering this rejection moot.

6. U.S. Patent 5,998,205

Claims 38-96 stand rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent 5,998,205. Applicants have submitted a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent 5,998,205, rendering this rejection moot as to that patent.

Related Applications

Applicants direct the Patent Office's attention to the prosecution histories and any Office Actions that have issued in U.S. Patent Applications 08/348,258, 08/487,992, 08/849,117, 08/974,391, 09/210,936, 10/323,425, 10/323,955, 10/323,984, 11/217,386, 11/601,071, 11/977,533, 11/977,902 and 11/977,903.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants request that the Examiner consider claims 38-96 and allow them. Should the Examiner believe that any remaining issues can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



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